NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, November 1: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that a special exhibition entitled, "FRENCH DRAWINGS, MASTERPIECES FROM FIVE CENTURIES - FROM THE LOUVRE, OTHER MUSEUMS, AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS", will open at the Gallery on Sunday afternoon, November 2nd, at 3 o'clock. The exhibition will continue through November 30th.

Organized by the French Government (L'Association Française d'Action Artistique) and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibition will consist of 176 original drawings from the collections of the Louvre and other French Museums, as well as from museums in Stockholm, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and private collections.

The only American-owned drawing in the exhibition is Jean Fouquet's "Portrait of an Ecclesiastic", lent by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The drawings to be shown cover the period from the fifteenth to the twentieth century - from Fouquet to Cézanne. Mr. Finley lists the following artists among the 75 whose works are represented by rare and beautiful examples: Boucher, Callot, Claude Gellée called Le Lorrain, Clouet, Daumier, David, Degas, Delacroix, Fragonard, Ingres, Manet, Poussin, Prud'hon, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Watteau.

In addition, a great many artists who are less well known in the United States, as for instance, Bellange, Courtois, Gillot, Le Brun, Rigaud, and Vouet, are also included in the exhibition.

Mr. Finley points out the importance of this exhibition as "a gesture of friendship between France and the United States." He calls attention to the following drawings which the Print Cabinet of the Louvre is contributing to the exhibition: Poussin, "Mars and Venus"; Claude Gellée, "Landscape with Trees"; Bourdon, "Portrait of Queen Christina of Sweden"; Watteau, "The Young Bacchus", and "Conversation Galante"; Boucher, "Seated Young Woman"; Fragonard, "The Pasha"; David, "Homer"; Ingres, "Madame Destouches"; Degas, "Study of a Draped Woman"; Redon, "The Spider"; and Seurat, "The Nurse". None of these drawings have been shown before in the United States.

The Curator of Drawings of the Louvre, Madame Jacqueline Bouchot-Saupique, will accompany the exhibition to this country. She made the selection of works to be shown and prepared the catalogue published for the occasion.